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University of Montana

Office of University Relations • Missoula, Montana 59812 • (406) 243-2522

MEDIA RELEASE

August 4, 1987

SALARY PROSPECTS IMPROVED FOR COLLEGE GRADS

MISSOULA --

Starting salaries for the nation's 1986-87 college graduates were up, but the number of job offers was down, according to Don Hjelmseth, director of career services at the University of Montana.

Data, compiled by the College Placement Council, indicated that graduates who found jobs got starting salaries 2 to 6 percent higher than a year ago, Hjelmseth said.

The biggest winners were graduates in the liberal arts. Their average starting salary was up 5 percent to \$20,256, and the number of job offers increased 29 percent. Most of these jobs were in marketing and service industries.

For those earning master's degrees in the humanities, starting salaries were up 16.2 percent to \$22,644, and the number of job offers nearly doubled.

In contrast, graduates in many technical fields encountered a tighter job market. In computer science, for example, there was a 28 percent decline in the number of job offers and a slight drop in starting salaries.

The situation for business fields was mixed. Graduates in marketing and distribution received slightly more job offers and

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an average starting salary of \$20,364, up 5.7 percent.

Accounting graduates received 16 percent fewer job offers and only slightly higher salaries.

According to Hjelmseth, members of the College Placement Council include virtually all the nation's major colleges and universities and many Fortune 1000 corporations. Data for the annual salary survey was gathered from 164 college and university placement offices.

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